16. Non-fatal offences against the person

This chapter focuses on non-fatal offences against the person, including assault and battery, wounding and inflicting grievous bodily harm, poisoning offences, kidnapping, harassment, possession and use of offensive weapons. The chapter also discusses defences to assault and battery including consent, and lawful chastisement, in addition to the Law Commission’s Report on reforming offences against the person. The discussion includes a detailed analysis of the relevant statutory offences including the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, and the Prevention of Crime Act 1953. It also considers racially or religiously aggravated versions of the relevant offences.